

Suggested Talking Points
Francis A. Donovan
USAID Deputy Mission Director
A Partnership for Light
The Celebration
Shariff Kabunsuan Hall
ARMM Complex, Cotabato City
February 26, 2007
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

- Honorable Raphael P.M. Lotilla, Secretary of Energy
- Honorable Datu Zaldy U. Ampatuan, ARMM Governor
- Honorable Robert A. Vornis, Netherlands Ambassador to the Philippines
- Atty. Pedro A. Aquino, Jr. PNOC OIC-President and CEO
- Mr. Roberto R. Calingo, Mirant Philippines Foundation Executive Director
- Ms. Tetchi Cruz-Capellan, AMORE Chief of Party
- Mr. Ramin Nadimi, Shell Solar Philippines Corporation General Manager
- BRECDA (community) partners

- Friends from the press
- Ladies and gentlemen

Magandang Tanghali!

- Today we join together to celebrate the combined efforts of many individuals and institutions from different sectors: government, businesses, civil society, communities, and the media to achieve development.
- Here we have an example of how, by working together for a common cause, people can help achieve peace and progress.
- Giving communities access to power is basic to progress, but a significant challenge facing the Philippines has been how to electrify remote villages, especially those in conflict-affected areas.

- Through our partnership under the AMORE Program, that challenge has been met in many communities.
- At this point in time, there are installed solar power systems in close to 4,000 households in 129 different villages, almost exclusively in the ARMM, and we have also prepared these villages to sustain their light giving systems into the future.
- In a partnership such as ours, the Philippine government plays a critical leadership role. Private enterprises bring resources and sustainability strategies to the fore; civil society brings its commitment and vision; communities bring their ownership of their own development and their perseverance to sustain it; and finally the media helps share our vision and attract more partners to expand our achievements.

- We look forward especially to the continued support of our partner LGUs in assisting these villages to sustain their systems, expanding these systems to more households and villages and in introducing other development projects in the future.